

# THE ORTHODOX POST

August 2012

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## Pastor's Message

by Fr. Nathan Preston

It has not been that long since I did my first Baptism. I remember returning home that evening and proudly reporting to friends and family via Facebook that I had "...neither drowned nor dropped the child. Perhaps I'll get some sleep tonight." Though those initial jitters have, through ample practice, passed and I now am able to get through most of the long prayers of the service with only a few slurred or stumbled words, Baptisms remain ever still fresh and new. They must. How many times, after all, is anyone permitted to be born? But once. And how many times to be reborn? Again, only once. More than something charming or cute, an occasion meriting posterity's profuse photographs, more than a rite of passage, social obligation, or custom, Baptism is a second birth. We are born again, born anew, brought to life for a particular purpose.

Birth is a traumatic thing—joyous but still full of its own risks for mother and child, its own worries for nervous, pacing fathers and families waiting in suspense. If a newborn will not taste the air, turn and blink in the bright light outside the womb, if he or she will not clutch onto life with tiny fingers and a novel, rasping cry, birth becomes occasion for tragedy. The rebirth of Baptism is no different. If a newly minted Christian turns not to living with the reality of God, their life with Him and for Him, but remains the same, unchanged but for an

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afternoon spent in ceremonial pomp, we must mourn. For when those who are Baptized do not embrace the life of faith or, worse yet, are not given the care they need to grow in it, this, too, is a tragedy. There ought never be a reborn, stillborn Christian. So what is this life of faith, this vital breath, this light and life? It is the sure knowledge that we live with an inescapable God; wherever we are, He is. It is the training and practice to know and serve Him. It is no less than to choose to accept His love and His mercy at all times, in all places. And, yes, these are choices, for each of us and for every day.

**Continued on Page 5**

## President's Message

by Bill Peters

Hope you are enjoying your Summer and taking advantage of picnics, beaches and vacations!!!

At St. Nicholas planning is underway for the activities of the new church year beginning in September. More information will be provided in the next issue of The Orthodox Post. However, there are three items worth mentioning.

First, St. Nicholas' Annual Golf Outing will be held on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at Oyster Bay Golf Course. This is a major fundraiser for our Church. So, "Save the Date" and make plans to support it by attending, bringing your friends and getting businesses to be sponsors. It will be a fun time for all!!!

Second, preparations are being made for the Sunday School and Albanian Class. Plan on enrolling your children and bring them to Church often. It is important for them and you.

Third, our 2012 Pledge Program which requests commitments from Parishioners on the amount of their donation for the year is completing. In this issue, those people that made Pledges for 2012 are listed on pages 4 and 5. Obtaining financial support for St. Nicholas Church is necessary for our Church to keep its doors open and serve the Parish community. A sincere "Thank You" goes out to all of you who made a Pledge for 2012. If you are not listed and you think you should be or you want to make a Pledge and be added to the list, please contact me or one of the contacts mentioned in the article.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer and See you in Church!!!!

## DAUGHTERS' CORNER

by Linda Foundos

Well, we've had 100 degree temperatures, thunder, lightening, hail, flooding, power failures & many just perfect days so far this summer. We hope you're having fun!

There's been so much activity within our community as well from births, deaths, graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, summer camps, travels, visitors, hospital stays. We wish everyone safe travels, good health and happy times. Please keep us informed of news you'd like to share because we care!

Thank you to all of you that participate in our Coffee Fellowship Sponsorship. It is very much appreciated and enjoyed. If you or a friend would like to be included, please contact Christina Liolin or Adelina Llupa.

## SAVE THE DATE



Monday, September 17, 2012

Annual St. Nicholas Golf Outing

## COME AND PLAY

*Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course*

We do hope that you will participate and invite your friends to join us.

Registration/sponsorship forms are available in the office or from any committee member.

Please make every effort to join us.

### The Golf Committee:

Phil Foundos and Tomi Beno: Co-Chairmen  
Mark Papalexis, Al Foundos,  
Lou Foundos, Jim Liolin and Roland Llupa

## KENDI SHQIP

(The Albanian Corner)



by A. Llupa

Gusht, 2012

Këtë radhë po japim lutjen e Shën Terezës, dhe një pjesë nga vjersha "Bukurija" e Naim Frashërit. Shën Tereza është shenjtorja e bëmave të "vogla". Ajo besonte se gjërat e vogla kanë rëndësi të madhe në jetë po të bëhen mirë dhe me dashuri...

"Sot, bëfsh paqe me veten; beso se Zoti të ka cuar aty ku duhet te jesh.

Le të kujtosh gjithmonë mundësitë e pafundshme që të sjell besimi;

Përdori mirë këto cilësi të dhuruara që ke dhe transmeto dashurinë që të është dhënë.

Kënaqu duke ditur se je fëmi i Zotit; Le të penetrojë prezenca e Tij ndër kocka;

Lejoje shpirtin tënd të lirë të këndojë, të vallëzojë, të thur lavde dhe të dashurojë;

Ai është atje për këdo nga ne që duam t'a shohim..."

BUKURIJA ...

M'iku me vrap djalëria  
E më la mbi dhe të shkretë,  
Më erdh shtriga pleqëria  
Pshehtazi, si qen' i qetë.

Ratë ne det t'arratise,  
Më latë në hidhërimë!  
Tani jetëne ç'e dua,  
Më s'është' e shkreta për  
mua,

O popo! C'më gjet, o shokë,  
Do të qanj me thes në kokë  
O ditët e djalërisë  
Që kishit shumë gëzime

Ti o bukuroshja ime!  
Të rite m'a paç për jetë,  
Kurrë mos paç hidhërimë!  
Të dashtë zot' i vërtetë!

Phryi yt mos u venittë.

## A Missions Visit to Albania

Sandro Margheritino is in his second year of study at St. Vladimir's Seminary in Westchester County. As both a student and a member of an OCMC short-term mission team, he travelled to Albania this summer to work and to learn. The following are his reflections on this experience. We are pleased to welcome his words here, but we are happy also to announce that he will make a personal visit to our community on Sunday September 16. Plan to be present, to greet him warmly with that hospitality for which Albanians are justifiably renowned, and to hear more of his thoughts and stories.

### REDISCOVERING OUR APOSTOLIC ZEAL

**Sandro Margheritino**

During my Seminary education I am often challenged by theological and spiritual quotes. Recently there was one in particular that struck me and which I will carry with me in the future. This is something that I read in one of the books required for a summer class, and which I was blessed to hear directly from the same author. When he found himself having to take important and difficult decisions, Archbishop Anastasios followed God's will by asking himself: "Is God enough for me?"

Wondering if God is enough for us and for our lives is a question that we are called to ask ourselves when we are in search of direction and we attempt to understand God's will. Twenty-one years ago Archbishop Anastasios decided that God was enough in his life and that leaving his prestigious position in Greece, for one of the hardest missionary challenges of modern era, was indeed God's will. God was in fact going to work through His Beatitude for the Resurrection of the Church in Albania.

In May, Anna and I were blessed to join the 2012 Missions Institute and OCMC Albania team led by Fr Luke Veronis, and witnessed God's incredible work among the Albanian people. Our mission trip was preceded by a week of class at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of theology where we studied *The Missiology of Archbishop Anastasios* through his writings, the theology and the history of missions, culture and gospel, intercultural relations and how globalization has affected religions.

A central starting point was to understand that missions are not only important for the few who are interested in becoming missionaries, but are rather an essential part of the Christian faith. We, as members of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, are commissioned to evangelize all nations. How do we evangelize? If we look among converts we realize that people come to the faith by observing another person, through the living example of a Christian presence. For us Orthodox, the question that arises is: Are we comfortable with evangelization? Are we ready to be a light to all people and not only to take care only of our own?

Missions play a central role in Christianity, and Archbishop Anastasios courageously affirms that a denial of missions is indeed a denial of Orthodoxy. Any parochialism which limits the work of the Spirit is a denial of God and the Church. Missions means combining the two great commandments: "Go forth and make disciples of all nations" and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

During this summer class we examined the case study of Albania, and learned how unique it was even compared to the other former totalitarian countries which suffered social, cultural and religious oppression. In 1967 the ruthless dictator Hoxha declared the country to be the world's first atheistic state. Hundreds of churches and mosques were systematically destroyed, and hundreds of religious leaders killed or sent to camps. Owning a Bible meant ten years in prison and sometimes even your life. The communist regime had deprived the people of Albania of the Word of God.

In class we talked about Albania as a developing country and how the Church has "resurrected" over the past 20 years, although it is still in great need. Our goal for this trip was to analyze how the church has succeeded in living out the missiology of the Archbishop, and where the church has not yet lived up to this missiology.

During our two weeks there, we visited many of the local Church ministries, such as the children and the youth ministries, schools and a university, radio, women's group, a very dynamic humanitarian organization called Diakonia Agape, as well as the Theological Academy and an orphanage. We met many people who offer their ministry to the Church and dedicate their lives in the service to the ones in need. We had the opportunity to interact with the youth and the university students on several occasions and share with each other our experiences, thoughts and perspectives. We engaged in some group discussions over themes such as secularization, social media and challenges that a Christian faces in today's society.

The Church in Albania is in a very unique situation within a multicultural society, and although founded at the time of the Apostle Paul, now presents a reality similar to the Church of the early centuries. The Church lives in a great excitement and hope even if the cross to carry for the Christians is particularly heavy. Certainly, they have their problems, complaints and troubles but visiting the many ministries in Albania, it was wonderful to see how the people working for the Church do it in joy, faith and love. Many of the people we met were part of the youth who participated in the youth ministries, university ministries, and summer camps run by Fr Luke and Presbytera Faith Veronis over 15 years ago, and who are now grown into leaders of the Church in Albania. The missionary seeds planted years ago are bearing fruit.

This experience impacted my Seminary education, and more generally my life as a Christian, in a profound way. What I realized from this experience is that even before learning about missions and ecclesiology, what we were studying and seeing was simply how to be a Christian and what Christianity really means: loving our neighbor regardless of his or her race, culture and religion. We bring witness to our Christian faith by providing an example with our own life, a life of love for all people.

**Continued on Page 6**

## 2012 Pledge Program – Pledgers List

Every year, St. Nicholas Church conducts a Pledge Program to seek each parishioner's financial pledge to support the Church. The Pledges provide the money that enables the Church to serve the community, to perform its day-to-day operations, and to be there when we need the Church. The Pledge Program campaign runs from November into the Spring and begins with letters going to parishioners seeking pledges. It is important that everyone participates in the Annual Pledge Program. To "Thank" all those who have made a Pledge for 2012 and to assure that the office has recorded all submitted Pledges, a list of those whose Pledge for 2012 was received is provided below. *If you made a Pledge for 2012 and you are not on the list, or you want to make a Pledge, please contact Jim Liolin, Bill Peters or Lou Foundos. Also, advise us of any spelling corrections or the addition of a spouse's name.*

**Again, to all of you who made a Pledge for 2012, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!**

Apostolu	Lenore	Ladd	Alison and Marc
Baltadori	Stefan and Juliana	Liolin	Elizabeth
Beno	Dhimiter and Diana	Liolin	James and Christina
Beno	Thoma and Christine	Llupa	Roland and Adelina
Borzuku	Loretta	Logore	Pauline
Celo	Roland and Anila	Logore	Rozeta
Coka	Jorgji and Eleni	Luka	Ilia and Agathia
Deonas	Linda	Matute	Carlos and Maria
Dilo	Frederik and Lori	Mertiri	Mitro and Vitori
Durniak	Peter and Mary	Meta	Frank and Evelyn
Filipi	Altin and Blerta	Mezini	Ermira
Filis	Nicholas and Barbara	Mile	Ardian and Irma
Foundos	Albert and Joan	Mitrollari	Artjan and Sirena
Foundos	Louis and Linda	Mizaku	Roland and Gliqeri
Foundos	Phillip and Johanna	Mone	Thomas and Concetta
Foundos	Steven	Nache	Agatha
Fundo	Alfred	Nasi	William
Fundo	Christian and Ariona	Panajoti	Jani and Liri
Fundo	Iirjan and Fiona	Panajoti	Peter and Helen
Fundo	Thomaq and Suzana	Panariti	Kristaq
Gjika	Vasken and Anila	Papalexis	Mark and Barbara
Gjoka	Arben and Ira	Papalilo	Helidon and Odeta
Gradt	Ellen	Patelis	Aphrodite
Grazhdani	Kostandin and Mimoza	Pavlllo	Nasi
Guma	Dhimior and Marsela	Pecani	Vasil and Suzana
Haile	Britu	Peter	Lenora
Heiser	Joanne and Doug	Peters	Bill and Tina
Jance	John	Peters	Damian and Jenny
Jance	Larry	Petro	Kristaq and Romana
Jones	Stephen and Diane	Phillips	Helen and Nicholas
Jorgji	Adrian and Dea	Pochari	Charles
Kallinikos	Viola	Preftes	Christe and Jean
Kasuli	Richard and Georgianne	Preston	Fr. Nathan
Kehoe	Alexandra and Michael	Prifti	Dhiogjen and Dhiandrella
Kelapire	George and Betty	Prifti	Naum and Rina
Kondili	Fotaq and Lina	Prifti	Rafaela and Sokol Kondi
Kondili	Aristotel and Mirela	Pucca	Martha
Korra	Robert and Tina	Rehova	Albert and Hankeleida
Kronja	Nikola and Louise	Rehova	Thoma and Iliana
Kutali	Andrea and Silvana	Rehova	Stavraq and Kostanza

## 2012 Pledge Program - Pledgers List (continued)

Rupp	Violet	Terova	Gjergji and Arjola
Sawyer	Gloria	Terova	Sotiraq and Eriola
Sera	Edi and Oneda	Trako	Marjanthi
Sheti	Kozara, Ralf and Drilona	Troja	Petrika and Eli
Shkurti	Eduart and Marcela	Topore	Andrea and Adriana
Skendi	Thomas and Odeta	Tsamblakos	Isidoros and Beti Beno
Slane	Jennifer	Vani	Albert
Slane	Tina	Vesho	Alma
Stefani	Frederik and Anila	Vozhilla	Nikollaq and Leonora
Stroka	Altin and Elda	Zacharias	Rosalie

## Community News

By Linda Foundos

- Our heartfelt sympathy to the Deonas family on the passing of Satira Deonas the end of May. Satira and her deceased husband Chris were active members of our St. Nicholas community for many years. Our condolences to their 3 daughters, Linda, Catherine and Marilyn. May her memory be eternal.
- Many blessings on the Kabaj/Kutali family as Emma Almira, daughter of Eneida & Orges, was baptized on July 7th. Her sponsors were Tina & Robert Korra. What joyous event.
- Kudos to Iris Mile who recently graduated from Boston University in a pre-med program. Her parents, Irma & Adrian are so very proud of her as are we all. Iris is a serious student with great ambitions and a very bright future.
- Kudos to Ediona Sera who recently graduated from high school and was recruited for the fencing team at Cornell University. She is reaping some of the benefits of all the years of hard work and dedication on her part, and that of her family as well. We are all so proud of Ediona. Well done and good luck as you go on.....
- June 25<sup>th</sup> was a very exciting day for the Kehoe/Liolin family.....Liam Michael was born to Alexandra & Michael Kehoe. Liam weighed 10 pounds, just 2 ounces more than his one-year old big brother Aidan! Congratulations to Christina & Jim Liolin, the very happy grandparents and all the family. May God bless Liam and the entire family.
- Jenny & Damian Peters have become parents!! A beautiful baby girl, Gabrielle Rosalia, was born on July 14<sup>th</sup> weighing 8 pounds. Congratulations to them and to Tina & Bill Peters who were delighted to welcome their 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild! May God bless Gabrielle and the entire family.
- Tina and Bill Peters after a trip to Switzerland, Venice and Croatia played host this July-August to their two grand-daughters from Switzerland, Skyler age 10 and Sophia age 7. They all had a great time visiting family and traveling down to Juno Beach, Florida to enjoy sun and surf. Swimming and building sand castles at the beach were some of the highlights of their vacation. A great Summer was had by all!!!

If you have news you would like to share with the Parish Community, such as a birth, a wedding, engagement, special anniversary, vacation, new house, new job, major accomplishment or academic honor, etc.

Please contact: **Linda Foundos, [ggsutter@aol.com](mailto:ggsutter@aol.com) or 516-671-8071.**



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE (continued from Page 1)

At every Baptism, I speak to those gathered about their responsibilities as the community of each new Christian, whether adult or child. Fresh and new and fearful are these many roles of parents, godparents, friends, and family. Lives are entrusted to them; they are entrusted to us, these souls and these futures. How could Baptism ever become routine? How could it ever be anything but vital and eternal and always new?

*Recent Baptisms: Please remember in prayer all of those newly brought into the Church in these last six months, their godparents, and their families.*

Alyssa Sheti, daughter of Ralf and Drilona Sheti, godchild of Enkela Tsolla.  
 Ann (Ariona) Cerma, daughter of Agim and Tina Cerma, godchild of Margalina Kondili.  
 Elda Stroka, daughter of Vasil and Violeta Filipi, godchild of Fr. Nathan Preston.  
 Mike (Musa) Haxhiu, son of Ismail and Hatman Haxhiu, godchild of Ilir Rrapo.  
 Ellen Pando, daughter of Jani and Etleva Pando, godchild of Dinos and Panagiota Androtsakis.  
 Steven Pando, son of Jani and Etleva Pando, godchild of Danny and Landa Daglas.  
 Kathryn Qeramixhi, daughter of Arben Qeramixhi and Iryna Skyba, godchild of Mike and Alma Haxhiu.  
 Dea Jorgji, daughter of Skender and Diana Caushi, godchild of Tomi and Christine Beno.  
 Adrian Jorgji, son of Thoma and Eriketa Jorgji, godchild of Nasi Pavllo.  
 Stefani (Emma) Kabaj, daughter of Orges and Eneida Kabaj, godchild of Robert and Tina Korra.

## REDISCOVERING OUR APOSTOLIC ZEAL

### Continued from Page 3

Every human being is a divine image of God, and as Christians who love our God, we are also called to love all people. With the same love we are asked to share the Good News of our Savior, and, as Archbishop Anastasios admonishes, not to simply wear the cross as an ornament by practicing a comfortable Christianity, but rather to preach the gospel to ends of the earth fearing nothing because the safest place for us is in the will of God.

Christianity means sharing with others what we have received. We need to overcome the objection of going beyond our national borders simply because the Church has her needs here. Our focus and our effort for the proclamation of the Gospel has to be simultaneously at a local, at a national and at a global level. We Orthodox are proud of the apostolic succession of our Church and we claim that our faith is the same one given to the apostles. The challenge now presented to us is to regain our lost apostolic zeal, the same missionary spirit which took the apostles and Christians for many centuries to proclaim the Good News to all nations.

## Ads from Merchants Who Support the Church

In the Post there are advertisements (Ads) promoting businesses that support our Church. These Ads are being displayed in The Orthodox Post on a monthly basis. These Ads are on the following pages.

These Merchants **help to financially support our St. Nicholas Church. Therefore, we ask that Parishioners look at the Ads and support these Merchants by buying goods and services from them, whenever possible.**

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**The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ - Commemorated on August 6<sup>th</sup>**

For an explanation of the present Feast and understanding of its truth, it is necessary for us to turn to the Gospel: "Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James and John his brother, and led them up onto a high mountain by themselves" (Mt.17:1). There were eight on the mountain, but only six were visible. Three, Peter, James and John, had come up with Jesus, and they saw Moses and Elias standing there and conversing with Him, so altogether there were six of them. However, the Father and the Holy Spirit were invisibly with the Lord: the Father, with His Voice testifying that this was His Beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit shining forth with Him in the radiant cloud.

Thus, the six are actually eight, and there is no contradiction regarding the eight. Thus, the Light of the Transfiguration of the Lord is not something that comes to be and then vanishes, nor is it subject to the sensory faculties, although it was contemplated by corporeal eyes for a short while upon an inconsequential mountaintop. But the initiates of the Mystery, (the disciples) of the Lord at this time passed beyond mere flesh into spirit through a transformation of their senses, effectualized within them by the Spirit, and in such a way that they beheld what, and to what extent, the Divine Spirit had wrought blessedness in them to behold the Ineffable Light.

So, with the onset of the Eighth Day, the Lord, taking Peter, James and John, went up on the Mount to pray. He always prayed alone, withdrawing from everyone, even from the Apostles themselves, as for example when with five loaves and two fish He fed the five thousand men, besides women and children (Mt.14:19-23). Or, taking with Him those who excelled others, as at the approach of His Saving Passion, when He said to the other disciples: "Sit here while I go over there and pray" (Mt.26:36). Then He took with Him Peter, James and John. But in our instance right here and now, having taken only these same three, the Lord led them up onto a high mountain by themselves and was transfigured before them, that is to say, before their very eyes.

We believe that at the Transfiguration He manifested not some other sort of light, but only that which was concealed beneath His fleshly exterior. This Light was the Light of the Divine Nature, and as such, it was Uncreated and Divine. So also, in the teachings of the Fathers, Jesus Christ was transfigured on the Mount, not taking upon Himself something new nor being changed into something new, nor something which formerly He did not possess. Rather, it was to show His disciples that which He already was, opening their eyes and bringing them from blindness to sight. For do you not see that eyes that can perceive natural things would be blind to this Light?

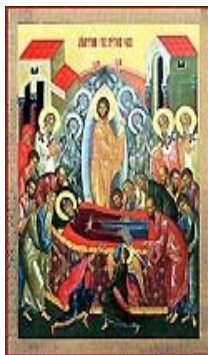
Thus, this Light is not a light of the senses, and those contemplating it do not simply see with sensual eyes, but rather they are changed by the power of the Divine Spirit. They were transformed, and only in this way did they see the transformation taking place amidst the very assumption of our perishability, with the deification through union with the Word of God in place of this.

So also she who miraculously conceived and gave birth recognized that the One born of her is God Incarnate. So it was also for Simeon, who only received this Infant into his arms, and the aged Anna, coming out [from the Jerusalem Temple] for the Meeting, since the Divine Power illumined, as through a glass windowpane, giving light for those having pure eyes of heart. Hence it is clear that the Light of Tabor was a Divine Light. And the Evangelist John, inspired by Divine Revelation, says clearly that the future eternal and enduring city "has no need of the sun or moon to shine upon it. For the Glory of God lights it up, and the Lamb will be its lamp" (Rev 21:23). Is it not clear, that he points out here that this [Lamb] is Jesus, Who is divinely transfigured now upon Tabor, and the flesh of Whom shines, is the lamp manifesting the Glory of divinity for those ascending the mountain with Him?

## MAJOR FEAST DAYS IN AUGUST



**Aug 01**  
Procession of  
The Cross



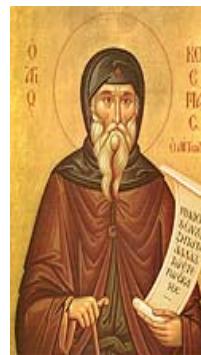
**Aug 15**  
Dormition of  
The Theotokos



**Aug 16**  
Translation of  
the Image of Jesus



**Aug 18**  
Martyrs Florus  
and Laurus



**Aug 24**  
St. Cosmas  
Aitolos



**Aug 29**  
The Beheading  
of St. John

**Major Church Activities and Events**

Vespers every Saturday at 5:00 p.m. (August 4, 11, 18 and 25)

Wed, Aug 01: Prayers for the Procession of the Cross, 10:00 a.m.

Fri, Aug 03: Prayers to the Theotokos (Paraklesis), 10:00 a.m.

Sun, Aug 05: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 p.m.  
Great Vespers for the Transfiguration, 5:00 p.m.

Mon, Aug 06: Liturgy for the Transfiguration, 10:00 a.m.

Wed, Aug 08: Paraklesis, 7:00 p.m.

Fri, Aug 10: Paraklesis, 10:00 a.m.

Sun, Aug 12: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Tues, Aug 14: Great Vespers for the Dormition, 7:00 p.m.

Wed, Aug 15: Liturgy for The Dormition, 10:00 a.m.

Thurs, Aug 16: Prayers for Christ the Savior, 10:00 a.m.

Sun, Aug 19: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Thurs, Aug 23: Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Sun, Aug 26: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

Wed, Aug 29: Prayers for Beheading of St. John, 10:00 a.m.

**Ushers' Schedule  
for Sunday Services**  
**Lista e sherbimit te dielave ne kishe**

Aug 05: Lou Foundos / Robert Korra

Aug 12: Roland Llupa / Edi Sera

Aug 19: Bill Peters / Ilija Luka

Aug 26: Ken Gjika / Izzy Tsamblakos

Sept 02: Tomi Beno / Ardian Mile

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